

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

PROTECTING OLDER MICHIGANDERS



Governor Whitmer is focused on tackling the problems that older Michiganders face in their day to day lives. She's set a goal to become the first "age-friendly state" in the Midwest by proposing bold initiatives to lower costs for seniors including an elimination of the pension tax, expanding nursing home support payments, signing bipartisan legislation to end surprise billing, establishing a task force to tackle the cost of prescription drugs, and more.

BECAME AN AGE-FRIENDLY STATE

- Became the first "Age-Friendly State" in the Midwest to ensure Michigan prepares for dramatic and imminent demographic changes and that communities can take steps to accommodate all ages.
- Signed an Executive Order creating the Health and Aging Services Administration (HASA), which will strengthen the continuum of support and services to older Michiganders. The HASA merges Medicaid programs with programs, improving collaboration and efficiency among programs serving our aging neighbors. This agency also runs the "Community for a Lifetime" program, which helps communities adapt to the needs of older adults, their families, and caregivers. It also will attract and retain more residents and be able to provide them with a better quality of life.
- Consistently invested in programs supporting older Michiganders including increasing nursing home support payments; expanding services to age in place, senior home care, and access to senior centers; improving preventative services, transportation options, and meal delivery; and combatting elder abuse.
- Proposed an elimination of the pension tax to provide an \$800 tax break to over 400,000 seniors with pensions in Michigan.

"We have to do more to help older Michiganders access affordable healthcare, retire with dignity, and have attainable, affordable housing. I am committed to driving down the cost of prescription drugs, easing the tax burden on seniors, and expanding access nursing homes and alternatives."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

HEALTH

- Extended Healthy Michigan to nearly 900,000 people and suspended the Medicaid work requirement that created barriers to coverage.
- Expanded access to telemedicine and signed bipartisan legislation requiring all insurers to cover telehealth.
- Signed bipartisan legislation to protect Michiganders against surprise medical billing.
- Established Prescription Drugs Task Force and received their recommendations to drive down costs, promote transparency, and improve health outcomes.
- Established the Nursing Home Workforce Stabilization Council to identify review, develop, and recommend approaches to support high-quality nursing home care.
- Created a dementia care unit with DHHS to reduce the burden of dementia in the state and to create a dementia-capable Michigan.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, made seniors a priority by protecting residents and staff in long-term care facilities. Executive Order 2020-191 maintains strong protocols in nursing homes to protect seniors.
- Prioritized seniors for vaccination from COVID-19.